

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed November 15, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-5, 7-21, 23-32, 43-44, 46-61, and 63-74 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7-9, 20, 23-28, 30-32, 43, 48, 60, and 65 have been amended. Claims 45 and 62 have been cancelled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 75-102 have been newly added. The prior art made of record has been considered but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims. Applicants believe that no new matter has been added and that a new search is not required to examine the amended claims and the newly added claims.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for noting that claims 20, 21, and 23-32 are allowed and that other claims would be allowable if proper amendments are made to certain independent claims.

CLAIMS**Claim 1**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly being anticipated by Byers et al. (U.S. 6,771,846). Claim 1, as amended, reads as follows:

1. An input/output (I/O) interconnect system, comprising:
a first substrate having at least one compliant pillar transversely extending from the first substrate, wherein the compliant pillar comprises a first material, and wherein the compliant pillar includes a non-flat tip at the end opposite the first substrate; and
a second substrate having at least one compliant socket, wherein at least one of the compliant sockets is adapted to receive one of the compliant pillars of the first substrate within an opening in the compliant socket, wherein the compliant socket comprises a second material, *wherein the compliant socket includes a non-flat top surface at the end opposite the second substrate that includes the opening of the compliant socket*.

(Emphasis added). Applicants traverse the rejection and submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 should be withdrawn because Byers does not disclose, teach, or suggest

the highlighted portions in amended claim 1 above. In particular, Byers does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the opening of the compliant socket of the second substrate is adapted to receive one of the compliant pillars of the first substrate. Thus, the rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In addition, claims 2-5 and 7-19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg. Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Claim 43

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 43 and the claims dependent upon claim 43. However, in order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, claim 43 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45. In this regard, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 43 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 45. Claim 43 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 45, and, therefore, claim 43 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 44 and 46-59 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 43.

Claim 60

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 60 and the claims dependent upon claim 60. However, in order to expedite allowance of the pending claims, claim 60 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 62. In this regard, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 60 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 62. Claim 60 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 62, and, therefore, claim 60 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 61 and 63-74 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 60.

New Claims 75 and 76-90

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 43 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 47. Claim 75 includes the features of claims 43 and 47, and therefore, claim 75 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 76-89 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 75.

New Claims 90 and 91-102

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 60 is allowable if it is rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 65. Claim 90 includes the features of claims 60 and 65, and therefore, claim 90 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 91-102 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 90.

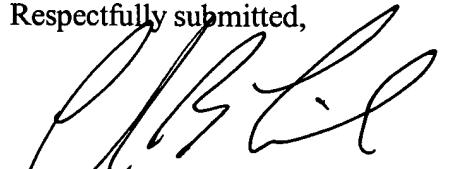
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

In addition, any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher B. Linder
Registration No. 47,751

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500